

National Library of Medicine

Information for Visitors

General Information:

NLM Address:

National Library of Medicine
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20894

The National Library of Medicine is located approximately five miles from the District of Columbia in Bethesda, Maryland. The NLM (Building 38) and the Lister Hill Center (Building 38A) are at the southeast corner of the campus of the National Institutes of Health. The NIH, like all Federal Government facilities, has instituted safety and security measures. Visitors must enter the campus through the central location for registering and orienting visitors (the NIH Gateway Center) and show one (1) form of identification (a government-issued photo ID—driver's license, passport, green card, etc.); visitors should continue to wear their identification prominently at all times while on campus. The NIH Gateway Center is accessed from NIH Gateway Drive and is near the exit of the Metro system's Medical Center stop. All visitors are encouraged to use Metro or other public transportation if at all possible. Parking for visitors is always in short supply at NIH (especially at NLM) and parking regulations are strictly enforced with tickets and tow trucks.

Taking Public Transportation to NIH/NLM (recommended):

The NIH visitor entrance, the Gateway Center (66) is located on South Drive by the **Medical Center stop** served by the:

- **Metro rail (Red Line)**
- **Buses:** Metrobus and Montgomery County Ride On Buses.

Upon exiting the Metro or bus, visitors enter the Gateway Center (66) for security inspection, and receive visitor passes, then head to NLM by walking or taking the "NIH Limited Campus" shuttle bus. See below how to get to NLM from the Gateway Center via pedestrian path or campus shuttle bus:

- **Walking** to NLM from the Gateway Center (66)≈approximately 10-15 minutes:
 - After obtaining a visitor pass, take the stairs (on the left) or the elevator to the second level.
 - Exit through the glass doors, turn left and follow the pedestrian path on the left.
 - Pass the Child Care Center on your left and walk through the parking and head down the hill to Center Drive.
 - Cross Center Drive and head toward the flagpole and enter the building (Bldg. 38) on the right.
 - From the front lobby you will take the stairs on the right upstairs one floor to the 2nd floor/mezzanine. Someone will greet you there.
- **Taking NIH shuttle bus** to NLM:
 - After obtaining a visitor pass, proceed down a ramp on the right and exit the Center.
 - Take the "NIH Limited Campus" shuttle bus at the bus shelter on the circular drive.
 - Take the bus to the first stop, Natcher/Bldg. 45, cross Center Drive, turn left and walk along Center Drive toward Rockville Pike, then turn right toward the flag pole in front of the Library entrance (Bldg. 38)

- From the front lobby you will take the stairs on the right upstairs one floor to the 2nd floor/mezzanine. Someone will greet you there.

Driving Directions:

From Baltimore:

1. Take I-695 to I-95 (South) to I-495 (West) toward Silver Spring.
2. Take Exit 34, Route 355 to Rockville.
3. Stay in the exit lane and follow the signs to Route 355 South (Bethesda), also known as Rockville Pike/Wisconsin Avenue.
4. Continue south on Rockville Pike about 2 miles.
5. After passing South Drive, turn right at NIH Gateway Drive.
6. Keep right towards the circle.

From Frederick:

1. Take I-270 (South) toward Washington to I-495.
2. Follow I-495 and take Exit 34 for Route 355 South (Bethesda) onto Rockville Pike/Wisconsin Avenue.
3. Continue south on Rockville Pike about 2 miles
4. Pass South Drive then turn right at NIH Gateway Drive
5. Keep right towards the circle.

From Virginia:

1. Take I-95 North to I-495.
2. Proceed on I-495 in the direction marked "Tyson's Corner" (West).
3. Take the exit for 355 South (Bethesda) onto Rockville Pike/Wisconsin Avenue.
4. Continue south on Rockville Pike about 2 miles
5. Pass South Drive then turn right on NIH Gateway Drive.
6. Keep right towards the circle.

From Washington DC:

1. Proceed north on Wisconsin Avenue/Rockville Pike.
2. Turn left on Old Georgetown Road.
3. Turn right on Cedar Lane.
4. Turn right on Rockville Pike.
5. Pass South Drive then turn right at NIH Gateway Drive.
6. Keep right towards the circle.

To park:

1. By the NIH Gateway entrance:
 - a. When you turn onto NIH Gateway Drive, keep right, towards the circle.
 - b. At the circle the lane splits into 3, keep in the left lane around the circle and into the entrance to MLP-11 parking.
 - c. Take a parking ticket and proceed to park.
 - d. After parking, follow the signs to the elevator that leads to the Gateway Center (66).
 - e. Exiting the elevator, head left into the Gateway Center where security check is conducted and visitor passes are issued.
 - f. After receiving the visitor pass, follow walking or shuttle bus directions (above).
2. At the NLM:

- a. Use two right lanes to circle into the Gateway Inspection Station (66A) for security inspection.
- b. Upon completing the personal and vehicle inspection, receive a visitor badge for each person and an inspection certificate for the vehicle. Place them prominently while on the NIH campus.
- c. Exiting the inspection area, proceed ahead and follow the road to Center Drive.
- d. Turn right on Center Drive then immediately turn left onto the NLM driveway and parking area with the flagpole.
- e. Metered visitor parking spaces are on the left, and handicapped parking spaces are available near the Library (38) and Lister Hill Center (38A) as shown on the map on the right. Limited metered parking is available in front of the Library (38) facing Rockville Pike. The parking costs \$.50 per 15 minutes with a maximum of \$6 for 3 hours. Coins are required and a change machine is located in the lobby of the Library. Parking meters are monitored from 7 am to 7 pm Monday through Friday.
- f. After parking, enter the Library (38) through the entrance near the flagpole.
- g. From the front lobby you will take the stairs on the right upstairs one floor to the 2nd floor/mezzanine. Someone will greet you there.



NIH Gateway Center Map



Main Visitor Entrance:
NIH Gateway Drive

Gateway Center - Building 66 (for pedestrians entering campus)

- Open 24 hours, 7 days a week

Gateway Inspection Station - Building 66A (for vehicles entering campus)

- Monday – Friday:
5am – 10pm

Weekends and After Hours:
Closed

After hours:

After 10pm on weekdays, all day weekends and holidays, visitors in vehicles should enter campus via the [Commercial Vehicle Inspection Facility \(CVIF\)](#) - Building 67 (on Rockville Pike between North Drive and Wilson Drive)

- After inspection, vehicles enter campus at Center Drive
- Roadway at Center Drive is for entering campus only; visitors exiting campus may exit from other open locations. To see a list of exits, please visit the [employee map](#).
- All vehicles and their contents will be inspected upon entering the campus.

Multi-Level Parking Garage 11 – MLP-11 (for parking outside of campus)

- Monday – Friday:
6am – 9pm (entrance)
6am – 11pm (exit)

Weekends:
Closed

- When MLP-11 is closed, visitors can park in lots on the NIH Campus
- Visitors parking in this garage should proceed to the Gateway Center (Bldg. 66) to get a visitor badge

